



2 A system for universal image tracking comprising:

3 An image forming apparatus;

4 A CPU integral to the image forming apparatus;

5 User input means connected to the CPU for receiving user
6 input;

7 Logic stored in the CPU for receiving user input and
8 creating archive data based upon the user input; and

9 A Graphic code producer responsive to the CPU for
10 producing graphic codes representative of the archive
11 data.

12 2. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
13 the image forming apparatus is a film based camera.

14 3. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
15 the image forming apparatus is a digital based camera.

16 4. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
17 the image forming apparatus is a video camera.

18 5. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
19 the image forming apparatus is a digital image processor.

20 6. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
21 the image forming apparatus is a medical image sensor.

22 7. The system for universal image tracking of claim 6 wherein
23 the medical image sensor is a magnetic resonance imager.

2 the medical image sensor is an X-ray imager.

3 9. The system for universal image tracking of claim 6 wherein
4 the medical image sensor is a CAT scan imager.

5 10. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
6 the user input means is a push button input.

7 11. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
8 the user input means is a keyboard.

9 12. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
10 the user input means is voice recognition equipment.

11 13. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
12 the graphic codes are one-dimensional.

13 14. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
14 the graphic codes are two-dimensional.

15 15. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
16 the graphic codes are three-dimensional.

17 16. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
18 the logic comprises configuration input processing for

19 determining bounds for the archive data generation based
20 on configuration input;

21 a resolver for determining the correct value of archive
22 data representing the image forming apparatus and the
23 configuration input; and

- 2 17. The system for universal image tracking of claim 16
3 wherein the timer further comprises a filter for
4 processing the time stamp according to configuration input
5 rules.
- 6 18. The system for universal image tracking of claim 16
7 wherein the configuration input comprises at least
8 generation, sequence, data, unit, and constants
9 information.
- 10 19. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 further
11 comprising a graphic code reader connected to the CPU for
12 reading a graphic code on an image representing archive
13 information; and
14 A decoder for decoding the archive information represented
15 by the graphic code.
- 16 20. The system for universal image tracking of claim 19
17 wherein the logic further comprises:
18 logic for receiving a second user input and creating
19 lineage archive information relating to the image based
20 upon the archive information and the second user input;
21 and
22 logic for producing graphic code representative of the
23 lineage archive data.

2 the archive data comprises location attributes of an
3 image.

4 22. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
5 the archive data comprises physical attribute of an image.

6 23. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein
7 each image in an image archive has unique archive data
8 associated with each image.

9 24. The system for universal image tracking of claim 21
10 wherein the location data comprises at least:

11 image generation depth;

12 serial sequence of lot within an archive;

13 serial sequence of unit within a lot;

14 date location of a lot within an archive;

15 date location of an image within an archive;

16 author of the image; and

17 device producing the image.

18 25. The system for universal image tracking of claim 16
19 wherein the timer tracks year in the range of from 0000 to
20 9999.

21 26. The system for universal image tracking of claim 16
22 wherein the timer tracks all 12 months of the year.

23 27. The system for universal image tracking of claim 16

2 minutes.

3 28. The system for universal image tracking of claim 16
4 wherein the timer tracks time in fractions of a second.

5 29. The system for universal image tracking of claim 16
6 wherein the system is ISO 8601:1988 compliant.

7 30. The system for universal image tracking of claim 22
8 wherein the physical attributes comprise at least:
9 image category;

10 image size;

11 push status;

12 digital dynamic range;

13 image medium;

14 image resolution;

15 image stain; and

16 image format.

17 31. The system for universal image tracking of claim 20
18 wherein the lineage archive information comprises a parent
19 number.

20 32. The system for universal image tracking of claim 31
21 wherein the parent number comprises at least:
22 a parent conception date; and
23 a parent conception time.

2 inputting raw image data to an image forming apparatus;
3 inputting image-related data; creating first archive data
4 based upon the image-related data; and translating the
5 first archive data into a form that can be attached to the
6 raw image data.

7 34. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
8 wherein the raw image data is from a film based camera.

9 35. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
10 wherein the raw image data is from a digital camera.

11 36. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
12 wherein the raw image data is from a video camera.

13 37. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
14 wherein the raw image data is from a digital image
15 processor.

16 38. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
17 wherein the raw image data is from a medical image sensor.

18 39. The method for universally tracking images of claim 38
19 wherein the medical image sensor is a magnetic resonance
20 imager.

21 40. The method for universally tracking images of claim 38
22 wherein the raw image data is from an X-ray imager.

23 41. The method for universally tracking images of claim 38

- 2 42. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
3 wherein the inputting image related data occurs without
4 user intervention.
- 5 43. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
6 wherein the inputting of image related data occurs via
7 push button input.
- 8 44. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
9 wherein the inputting of image related data occurs via
10 voice recognition equipment.
- 11 45. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
12 wherein the inputting of image related data occurs via a
13 keyboard.
- 14 46. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
15 wherein the form of the translated archive data is an
16 electronic file.
- 17 47. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
18 wherein the form of the translated data is a graphic code.
- 19 48. The method for universally tracking images of claim 47
20 wherein the graphic code is one dimensional.
- 21 49. The method for universally tracking images of claim 47
22 wherein the graphic code is two dimensional.
- 23 50. The method for universally tracking images of claim 47

- 2 51. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
3 wherein the image data comprises image data and second
4 archive data.
- 5 52. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
6 further comprising reading the second archive data; and
7 creating lineage archive information relating to the image
8 based upon the first archive information and second
9 archive information.
- 10 53. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
11 wherein the inputting of image related data comprises
12 configuration input processing for determining bounds for
13 the archive data generation based upon configured input;
14 determining the correct value of archive data representing
15 the image forming apparatus and configuration input; and
16 date/time stamping the image related data.
- 17 54. The method for universally tracking images of claim 53
18 wherein date/time stamping is filtered according to
19 configuration input rules.
- 20 55. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
21 wherein the configuration input comprises at least
22 generation, sequence, data, unit, and constants
23 information.

2 wherein the first archive data comprises location
3 attributes of an image.

4 57. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33
5 wherein the first archive data comprises physical
6 attributes of an image.

7 58. The method for universally tracking images of claim 56
8 wherein the location attributes comprise at least:
9 image generation depth;
10 serial sequence of lot within an archive;
11 serial sequence of unit within a lot;
12 date location of a lot within an archive;
13 date location of an image within an archive;
14 author of the image; and
15 device producing the image.

16 59. The method for universally tracking images of claim 57
17 wherein the physical attributes of an image comprise at
18 least:

19 image category;

20 image size;

21 push status;

22 digital dynamic range;

23 image medium;

2 image resolution;

3 image stain; and

4 image format.

5 60. The method for universally tracking images of claim 52

6 wherein the lineage archive information comprises a parent
7 number.

8 61. The method for universally tracking images of claim 52

9 wherein the parent number comprises at least:

10 a parent conception date; and

11 a parent conception time.

12 62. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein

13 the input means comprises a magnetic card reader.

14 63. The system for universal image tracking of claim 1 wherein

15 the input means comprises a laser scanner.

16 64. The system for universal image tracking of claim 31

17 wherein the physical attributes further comprise;

18 imageRes; and

19 imageCus.

20 65. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33

21 wherein the inputting image related data is via a magnetic
22 card reader.

23 66. The method for universally tracking images of claim 33

scanner.

- 3 67. The method of universally tracking images of claim 33
4 wherein the inputting of image related data is via an
5 optical reader.